



Forest Insect & Disease Management

Report No. 80-3-29

Issued on: 6/18/80

AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY OF FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE ACTIVITY, SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: Department of Interior
National Park Service
Shenandoah National Park

STATE: **Virginia**

DATE: June 11, 1980

PERCENT COVERAGE: 100%

AIRCRAFT: Cessna 182

CREW: C.W. Dull, T.P. Russell, W. Phillips

REPORT PREPARED BY: C.W. Dull

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

To detect the presence of forest insect and disease activity within the Shenandoah National Park.

SURVEY RESULTS

Complete defoliation of 1,000 acres of hardwood forest was observed adjacent to the Pocosin Cabin area along the Skyline Drive. The defoliation is highly visible from the Skyline Drive and the Appalachian Trail which passes through this area. Ground checks revealed that the defoliation was caused by a complex of defoliators, consisting primarily of the fall cankerworm, Alsophila pometaria and the linden looper, Erannis tiliaria, (Figure 2 & 3). Large stands of black locust were also heavily defoliated within the park by locust leaf miner, Xenochalepus dorsalis.

CONCLUSIONS

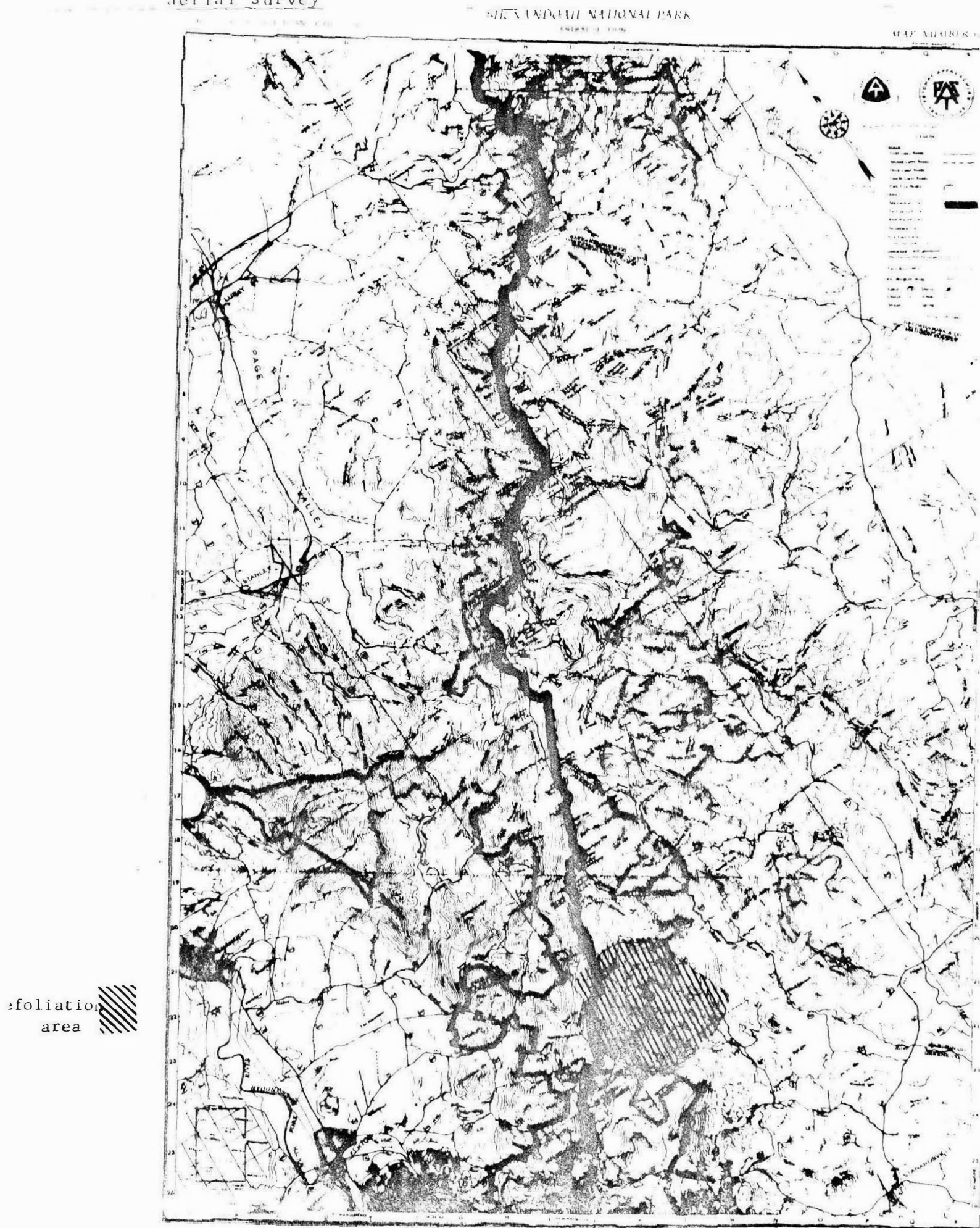
Forest insect and disease activity are at a low level and do not pose a serious threat to the timber or recreational values within the park. Defoliated trees observed in this survey should refoliate within the next month and should no longer detract from the aesthetic values along the Skyline Drive. National Park Service personnel should continue field surveillance along the Skyline Drive to monitor the status of the defoliator complex.

For further information, contact;

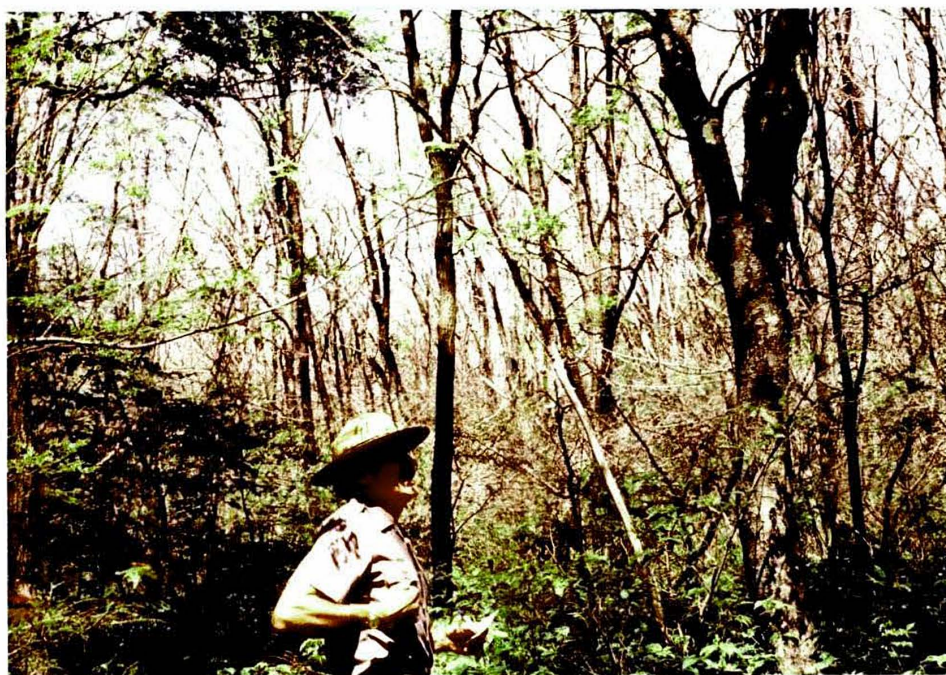
U.S. Forest Service FIDM
3620 Interstate 85, N.E.
Northgate Office Park, Rm. 2103 or
Doraville, Georgia 30340
Phone: 404/221-4796

U.S. Forest Service FIDM
P.O. Box 2570
Asheville, NC 28802
Phone: 704/258-2850

Figure 1: Area of complete defoliation as observed during June 11, 1980
aerial survey



Ground checks revealed a defoliator complex
consisting primarily of fall cankerworm and
Linden looper to be causing 100% defoliation



Large stands of black locust have been defoliated
by the locust leaf miner as seen here from the air



Defoliated area along the Skyline Drive
at mile post 60, as seen from the air

